



**MISION PERMANENTE DE CHILE  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**  
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
885 Second Avenue, 40° Piso, New York, NY 10017 /  
tel. (917) 322-6800 - fax (917) 322-6890

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**INTERVENCIÓN DEL**

**REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**EMBAJADOR SR. HERALDO MUÑOZ**

**EN SU CALIDAD DE PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE CONSOLIDACIÓN DE LA PAZ  
CON OCASIÓN DEL EVENTO DE ALTO NIVEL**

**“LAS CRISIS ALIMENTARIA Y ECONÓMICA EN LOS PAÍSES POST-CONFLICTO”**

-Check against original

**STATEMENT BY THE**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AMBASSADOR HERALDO MUÑOZ**

**AS CHAIR OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH LEVEL EVENT**

**“THE FOOD AND FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES”**

**ECOSOC  
UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 29 October 2009

Mr. Secretary General,

Madame President of the Economic and Social Council,

Madame Director General of the World Food Programme,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Post-conflict countries are suffering from a triple damage phenomenon in the present world context. They experience the harsh effects of the 2008-2009 food price crisis, the damages of the widespread global financial crisis, and the enduring legacies of historic violence and conflict.

According to FAO, the combination of a food and global economic downturn has pushed, during the past year, more than one billion people into hunger and poverty. And the worst is that the high number of hungry people is not a result of poor harvests, but is due to high food prices – particularly in developing countries – as well as to lower incomes and lost jobs. In order to alleviate the consequences of these crises, and to support countries emerging from conflicts facing such threats, the United Nations must strengthen its coherent and integrated response. Today's meeting is a step in that direction.

As Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am particularly concerned that countries emerging from conflict are particularly vulnerable to financial and food price shocks. Most of these countries are not well integrated into the world economy and suffer most from the current global decrease in non-aid flows.

For example: a) foreign direct investment has fallen due to substantial reduction of international liquidity and equity investments; b) reliance on one or few exports hits harder compared to more diversified economies; in view of weakened world demand, c) investors' appetite for post-conflict markets decrease due to high risk aversion; and d) remittances from the diaspora has fallen due to difficult economic conditions in sending countries. The drop in overall financial flows to developing countries is about 25 percent in 2009-2010.

In countries emerging from conflict, lack of access to food and price increase may lead to a sharp decline in the population's confidence in the peace process, and the re-emergence of violence, as we have seen in some countries, with the danger of a resumption of violence and a new vicious cycle of instability.